



Workshop Planned on Specialty Crop Block Grant

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MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is offering a workshop to assist Specialty Crop Block Grant applicants. Non-profit organizations, producer organizations, government agencies, universities and other agricultural organizations are encouraged to attend as they complete the application process.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 90 at DATCP, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison. This two-hour workshop will include step-by-step assistance with the grant application, suggestions for writing strong proposals and feedback on project proposal ideas.

Specialty Crop Block Grants are awarded to projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop industries as a whole and not directly benefit one individual. Specialty crops are defined in law as: fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Applications for Specialty Crop Block Grants are due to DATCP by 4:30 p.m. on April 15.

Priorities for 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant funding includes:

- Environmental sustainability, pest and disease control, and varietal improvement.
- Assisting in developing “Good Agricultural Practices,” “Good Handling Practices,” and “Good Manufacturing Practices” and other food safety practices.
- Increasing the demand for and supply of locally-produced foods in Wisconsin.
- Industry innovation in production, processing and packaging.
- Education to increase the consumption of Wisconsin specialty crops.

Based on interest in Specialty Crop Block Grant writing assistance, additional workshops can be planned across the state. To register for the Madison workshop or request another location, contact Juli Speck, DATCP Grants Specialist at 608-224-5134 or juli.speck@wisconsin.gov.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 ([H.R. 8](#)) authorized the United States Department of Agriculture to provide grants to states for the fiscal year 2013. Application materials are available on http://datecp.wi.gov/Farms/Crops_and_Specialty_Crops.

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